FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 22, 2019

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<u>Vermont to host 2019 Northeast Transportation Safety Conference</u>

Barre, Vt. – More than 150 people from across the region are coming to Vermont for the 2019 Northeast Transportation Safety Conference on October 28 and 29 in Burlington.

They will join 30 employees of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) for a conference that brings together highway safety specialists from engineering, education, law enforcement, and emergency medical services to focus on a common goal: the reduction of fatalities and injuries on our roadways.

"Distracted driving, impaired driving, speed, and failure to use seat belts continue to be the major cause of highway fatalities," said Joshua Schultz, AOT Operations and Safety Bureau Director. "This opportunity for highway-safety professionals to share information and ideas can be critical to reducing the number of motor vehicle crashes and deaths."

Workshops will address automated enforcement and speed management; pedestrian, bike, and crosswalk safety; work zones; drowsy driving and distracted driving; cannabis trends; and more. Keynote speakers include Carlos Braceras, Executive Director of Utah Department of Transportation; Avery Ash, head of Autonomous Mobility at INRIX, a global traffic data consultant; and Ian Grossman, Vice President for Member Services and Public Affairs at the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA).

This year, the organizers will open the conference doors to members of the media. Reporters are cordially invited to attend and should contact Rachel Noyes at AOT (contact information above) to make arrangements.

The conference, titled "Northeast Highway Safety - Regional Challenges, Successes, and Opportunities," will be held at the Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery Street, Burlington.

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